

Geological Society honors Cox and Pettijohn

Allan V. Cox, professor of geophysics at Stanford University, and Francis J. Pettijohn, professor emeritus of Johns Hopkins University, were honored by the Geological Society of America at its annual meeting, which was held during 20-22 October in Salt Lake City, Utah. Cox received the Arthur L. Day Medal, which recognizes outstanding contributions to geology through the use of physics and chemistry. The Penrose Medal, which was awarded to Pettijohn, commemorates significant advances in the geological sciences.

After receiving his PhD in geophysics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1959, Cox joined the US Geological Survey at Menlo Park, California. He became professor of geophysics at Stanford in 1967. Cox's research has been focused upon the earth's magnetic field, and he and his colleagues established the time scale of geomagnetic reversals that is a necessary ingredient in the evolution of current plate-tectonic theories. Cox's research interests also include marine magnetic anomalies, lunar magnetization, the origin of the earth's magnetic field and magnetic dating of sediments.

Pettijohn received his PhD in geology from the University of Minnesota in



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1930. He held teaching positions at Macalester College, Oberlin College and the University of Chicago before joining the Johns Hopkins faculty as professor of geology in 1952. Pettijohn is well known for his contributions to the

study of sedimentology as a recognized discipline within the geological sciences. His research interests include sedimentary mineralogy, paleocurrent analysis, basin analysis and Precambrian geology.

Bureau of Standards gives physics awards

Eight scientists working in physics and physics-related fields at the National Bureau of Standards received Gold and Silver Medal Awards at the US Department of Commerce's 27th Annual Awards Ceremony on 21 October. These awards are the Department's highest employee honors and were given to 30 NBS staff members.

Gold medals were presented to Philip S. Klebanoff, supervisory physicist at the Institute for Basic Standards, for his contributions to fluid mechanics; Edward J. Prosen, research chemist at the Institute for Materials Research, for his contributions to calorimetry; John A. Simpson, deputy chief of the optical physics division of the Institute for Basic Standards, for his leadership in precision dimensional measurement; and Robert A. Kamper and James E. Zimmerman, physicists in the Institute

for Basic Standards, for measurements with superconducting quantum interference devices.

Physicists who received Silver Medals were Ared Cezairliyan of the Institute for Materials Research, for his contributions to metrology at high temperatures; Daniel Gross of the Institute for Applied Technology, for his contributions to fire safety; and Barry N. Taylor, chief of the electricity division at the Institute for Basic Standards, for his establishment of physical constants.

Maxwell Plasma Prize goes to Lyman Spitzer Jr

Lyman Spitzer Jr, professor of astrophysical sciences at Princeton University and director of its observatory, has been awarded the first James Clerk Maxwell Prize for Plasma Physics of The American Physical Society. The prize is sponsored by Maxwell Labora-

tories Inc and was presented on 12 November at the meeting of the APS Division of Plasma Physics in St. Petersburg, Florida. The award, which consists of \$3500 and a certificate of citation, will be awarded each year for the next five years.

Spitzer received his PhD from Princeton University in 1938. He was a National Research Council Fellow at Harvard during 1938-39 and was part of the physics and astronomy faculty at Yale during 1939-41 and 1944-47. During 1942-46 Spitzer was a member of the staff of the Columbia University Division of War Research. He joined the Princeton faculty in 1947.

The award cites Spitzer's "pioneering investigations of the behavior of plasmas from interstellar space to toroidal confinement devices." His original ideas are fundamental to the stellarator and tokamak, which are toroidal magnetic configurations for confining a plasma to obtain thermonuclear energy.